

FirstNet will issue RFI, kick off public comment period at next board meeting

Fierce Wireless Tech By Tammy Parker

September 10, 2014

LAS VEGAS--The First Responder Network Authority will release a request for information (RFI) at its Sept. 17 board meeting and will also announce a public comment-and-notice period, through which FirstNet will seek input on issues such as whether FirstNet access should be expanded beyond public-safety users, according to Ed Parkinson, FirstNet's director of government affairs.

Parkinson made the announcement during a presentation at the Competitive Carriers' Association convention, held in conjunction with CTIA's Super Mobility Week.

He said the RFI will include a statement of objectives regarding the planned nationwide public-safety broadband network (NPSBN) being planned by FirstNet, and will ask a number of detailed questions focused on the core, radio access network (RAN), security and partnerships. In particular, FirstNet is encouraging rural carriers and rural communities to identify partnerships that will provide FirstNet with options for when it comes time to award contracts for the network, Parkinson said.

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